

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER
2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE NATIONAL CW SPEED WEEK FROM TODAY UNTIL SATURDAY

THE SARC TALKING TECH POWER HOUR ON 27 OCTOBER

and

BACAR TO FLY ON 30 OCTOBER

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with sadness that we announce that the key of Johann J Loubser, ZS1ZE went silent on Thursday 7 October 2021 after losing the battle against cancer. He was a well-known member of the Boland Amateur Radio Club. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THANK YOU FOR CQ HOU KOERS AND JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

A big word of thanks to all the radio amateurs who took the time and effort to support the Scouts, Guides, and Voortrekkers during CQ Hou Koers and Jamboree on the Air last weekend! You did something AWESOME!

THE NATIONAL CW SPEED WEEK FROM TODAY UNTIL SATURDAY

The National CW Speed Week started at 04:00 UTC (06:00 CAT) this morning Sunday 24 October and will end at 16:00 UTC (18:00 CAT) on Saturday 30 October 2021. The activity will take place on 80, 40 and 20 metres and you may not work the same call sign more than ONCE on each band. The idea is to make as many contacts as you can within a 7-day calendar period; the goal is to log all contacts on the RaDAR Sport Log, developed by Eddie, ZS6BNE. Visit www.radarops.co.za/zsportal; you will need a log-in PIN from Eddie in order to take part. The PIN allows you to edit your own log if you have made an error.

The criteria for the week will be - CW sent using any paddle or any straight key, nothing less than 20 wpm character speed or faster, will qualify you to take part. You will need to declare in the comments column on the logging system what kind of key you used - straight or paddle. The Radar system self-generates the points, i.e., two QSOs confirmed will yield two points each and a QSO without a conformation will give you ONE point each, without a QSL confirming a match. So, the idea is to make sure your friends actually log on the system, to gain the double points. During the week, anyone can at any time, spot who spoke to whom, either in text form on the RaDAR system or on a bar graph format on the same system. Everyone logs in one place; just refresh your screen to spot the latest happening.

THE IARU REGION 1 CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

The 'Shaping the Future' Workshop has been busy since Saturday 16 October. The work of this Workshop closed yesterday with Module 6: Actions, milestones, deliverables, and timescales. For the Conference, Committee 2 finalised the Region 1 Budget yesterday afternoon.

The Closing Plenary will be held at 15:00 CAT this afternoon with the C2 report to Conference, the election of the new EC, the voting for the venue for next conference and the G2BVN Committee Report to Conference.

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THE SARC TALKING TECH POWER HOUR ON 27 OCTOBER

Are you interested or experienced in Radio Fox Hunting? Then this one is for you. The Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour topic for October is "Fox Hunting - Experiences, Tips and Tricks" and everyone, whether novice or veteran, is invited to join in and contribute to the discussion. The net takes place at 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 27 October on the Sandton 145,700 MHz repeater and for those further afield, please connect to the ZS6STN repeater via Echolink.

BACAR TO FLY ON 30 OCTOBER

The Secunda Amateur Radio Club will launch a Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio (known as the BACAR project) on Saturday 30 October. Several interesting payloads are being prepared, including the new AMSAT-SA AfriCUBE linear transponder, Slow Scan TV, a crossband FM repeater, and an ion thruster scientific experiment. Amateurs from various Clubs are involved in this project.

Unfortunately, the Club did not inform SARL News about the frequencies that will be used. The Club can be contacted via e-mail secradio@jenny.co.za for more information.

CONTEST NEWS

The CQ WW DX SSB Contest is a 48-hour activity taking place on 30th and 31st October 2021 with you working the world on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10

metres. The exchange is a realistic RS report and your CQ Zone, for South Africa that is Zone 38. Remember the new Youth category. Find all the rules at <https://www.cqww.com/>. The CQ WW DX CW Contest will run on 27 and 28 November 2021.

Sadly, a measly five logs were received for the Spring QRP Contest that took place on 9 October 2021. Willy Williams, ZS5WT, logged a phone QSO with FR4TS in Reunion Islands, 2 835 km away. The QSO was confirmed on QRZ.

1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS - 720 points, Ultralight portable station with home-brew transceiver

2nd Willy Williams, ZS6WT - 276 points, Portable station

3rd Johannes van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 64 points, home station

4th Pieter Marais, ZR6CCL - 44 points, home station

5th Gawie Hoon, ZS5R - 4 points, home station

Get all the results in HF Happenings 968.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently a couple of active sunspot regions visible and there is a possibility of a variety of flaring activity. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 17. The 10 to 30 m bands will, especially during the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

24 to 30 October – the National CW Speed Week

25 October – closure of submissions for the 2022 Blue Book

27 October – the SARL-100 Working Group meeting

30 October – the BACAR flight

30 and 31 October – the CQ WW DX SSB contest

4 and 5 November – the Taurids Meteor Shower

6 November – the RaDAR Challenge and the Durban ARC meeting

8 November – the West Rand ARC meeting

11 November – Armistice Day

11 to 14 November – Work ZS18MOTH

13 and 14 November – the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest and the WAE RTTY contest

14 November – Remembrance Sunday

17 November – the SARL 80 m Club Sprint

17 and 18 November – the Leonids Meteor Shower.

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The National CW Speed Week started at 04:00 UTC (06:00 CAT) this morning Sunday 24 October and will end at 16:00 UTC (18:00 CAT) on Saturday 30 October 2021. The activity will take place on 80, 40 and 20 metres and you may not work the same call sign more than ONCE on each band. The idea is to make as many contacts as you can within a 7-day calendar period.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proofread by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.